

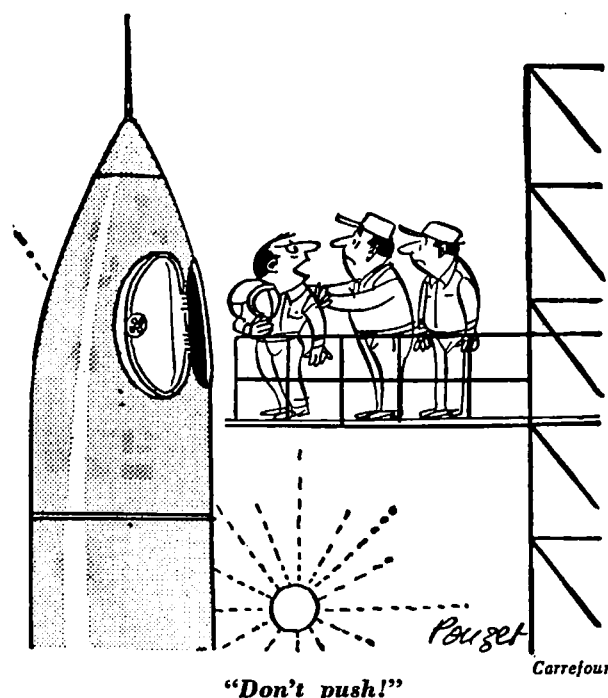
## • Abroad •

**Helsinki.** Following the Vienna precedent (1959), the Eighth World Festival of Democratic Youth will also be staged outside (but on the edge of) the Iron Curtain. The experienced Communist organizers are not unduly worried by the fact that all but one of the Finnish youth organizations, condemning this summer's Festival as a violation of their country's neutrality and a meeting "for one ideological group only," have declared that they will not participate. The Soviet Union will send 1,000 "delegates"; the East European satellites, 4,000; China, North Korea and North Vietnam, about 1,200; Cuba, 250. The target for this massive concentration will be the delegations from the underdeveloped nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America, which, though shepherded by Communist operatives, will consist mostly of politically naive and neutralist-minded young people. For their benefit, the organizers will rely on a public soft sell (and private manipulations) to peddle their political wares—"peaceful coexistence," "general and complete disarmament," "anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist struggle." Jazz bands, beach parties, concerts, acrobatics, movies, national costumes and dances, parades and fireworks will be much more conspicuous than political speeches and discussion. By prior plan and spontaneous reaction, dissidents will also be on hand. But the Communists believe that the soft sell approach will make counter-action seem heavy-handed, disruptive and "negative."

**Prague.** Many of the technological and economic impulses that are creating the West European Common Market operate also in Eastern Europe, and the politically integrating force is of course much more powerful in the East. The East European Council for Mutual Economic Association (Comecon) was founded to counter the Marshall Plan, and for some years had only a desultory existence. But lately it is taking on more flesh. The integrated pipeline system now under construction, tapping the new Soviet oil fields, will extend to all the satellite countries. Three years ago integration of the electric power grids through 220,000 volt lines began with a link between the Hungarian and Czech systems. In 1960 Czech and Polish lines were interconnected, and this year the link between Hungary and the Ukraine will be completed. Rumania, Bulgaria and East Germany are scheduled to be brought in by 1965, and 380,000 volt lines are being built to connect the Czech and Russian systems.

**Havana.** In January 1959 Cuba had the second highest average standard of living in Latin America. After 3½ years of Marxism-Leninism its standard (though an exact estimate cannot be obtained) is probably at the bottom. The streets even in Havana are full of cracks and potholes; buses break down by the hundreds; stores are virtually empty of food and consumer goods; the big buildings and hotels are dirty and decaying; there is lit-

ter and rubble everywhere. Since March there has been a rigid food rationing system. The per capita monthly ration of rice and beans—the staple of the Cuban diet—is set at 72 lbs., but this is seldom available. (Pre-Castro consumption was 146 lbs.) There is hardly any meat; the cattle on the once flourishing ranches have been mostly slaughtered. Though Cuba is an island in seas full of fish, there is little fish to eat. The fishermen are not permitted to be at sea at night, since they might well end up in Florida.



**Jakarta.** The timing of the invasion of New Guinea is thought to have been set by Sukarno's wish to be able to celebrate his victory in conjunction with the staging of the first "Asian Games" this August. For these neo-Olympics he is building a vast stadium and sports setup at a cost of \$125 million, a huge luxury hotel, even Indonesia's first cloverleaf boulevard crossing. While this extravaganza uses up much of Indonesia's small supply of critical building materials and trained technicians, the invasion has diverted thousands of tons of rice from hungry civilians to "strategic storage," and ships from civilian food transport to military supply lines. Meanwhile the rupiah, with an official rate of 125 to the dollar, has sunk to 1,000/\$. The country as a whole, shifted from a big rice supplier to a rice importer. With an exploding population rate, it is disintegrating politically into a kind of neo-feudalism in which local warlords exercise economic, political and military suzerainty in their districts.

**Saigon.** Over the past seven years the United States has spent \$2.5 billion in South Vietnam, and is currently spending at the rate of more than \$7 million per day. Since the number of Communist guerrillas in the field totals somewhere around 30,000, the U.S. expenditure thus comes to nearly \$100,000 per guerrilla. To some cynical observers it seems that a more direct use of the money, in accord with ancient Oriental customs, might have produced considerably better results.

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